**Consent Form - IRB#2009F5128**

***Focus Group***

**Conversations About Race**

This form provides you with information regarding the focus groups for Conversations about Race and requests your informed consent regarding participation in the research project. The researchers conducting this study are Dr. Angela Ausbrooks, School of Social Work (512-245-2592 and aa16@txstate.edu); Dr. Sherri Benn, Division of Student Affairs (512-245-2278 and sb17@txstate.edu); and Dr. Barbara Trepagnier, Department of Sociology (512-245-8054 and bt03@txstate.edu). The Texas State Office of Equity and Access is funding the study.

The purpose of the project is to explore the barriers that prevent conversations about race from occurring on college campuses and in communities across the country. Our ultimate goal is to construct a model for facilitating conversations that can be used in residence halls, academic departments, and administration offices that will foster goodwill among members of diverse racial/ethnic groups.

If you accept this invitation, you will be one of approximately 18-30 other women participating in the focus groups. Your participation in a focus group will enrich the learning and working environment at Texas State University by expanding our understanding of race relations.

The focus groups will consist of an equal number of black and white women (6-10) and will last approximately two hours. During each focus group, participants will be asked a series of questions about race. The goal of the focus group conversations is to identify barriers that keep such conversations from occurring as well as

factors that advance these kinds of discussions. Video and audio recordings of the focus groups will be made for transcription purposes.

Sample focus group questions:

-What messages, if any, did you receive about race growing

up?

-Are there any disadvantages to having conversations about

race?

Based on data from the focus groups, the researchers will create a model used for advancing authentic conversations about race that can be used on campuses nationwide.

During the focus group conversations you need only answer questions of your choosing. Your responses will be recorded, however, all information will be confidential and used only for the purposes of this study or follow up studies. Audio and video recordings and notes from the conversations will be maintained in a secure location in the LBJ Student Center, Suite 5-2.2 when not in use. Transcriptions will be maintained for three years; however, no personally identifiable information will be released about you to any agencies, organizations, or individuals not associated with this study. Furthermore, any information obtained in this study that can be identified with you will remain confidential. Your responses will not be linked to your name in any written or verbal report of this research project, including any publications that may result from the study.

The risks associated with participating in the study are minimal, but should be considered. You may experience some discomfort discussing the topic due to the sensitive nature of the subject matter. In addition, others in the group will have knowledge of your personal experiences and opinions regarding the topic. On the other hand, benefits of being in the study include making a contribution to understanding race relations and having the opportunity to share your personal story of successful conversations and experiences regarding race matters, both of which may evoke feelings of self- satisfaction, pride, self-determination, and accomplishment. In the event that you feel anxious or emotionally disturbed during or after participating in this research study, the Texas State Counseling Center, a counseling and mental health resource for Texas State University faculty, staff, and students, is available at The LBJ Student Center in suite 5-4.1. You may contact the Counseling Center by telephone at 512-245-2208 or email at [counselingcenter@txstate.edu](https://synergy.txstate.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=fab68a05ccde49a890761f5d2197a0b0&URL=mailto%3acounselingcenter%40txstate.edu). Sessions may be limited.

Upon completion of the focus group discussion, you will receive a gift card for an amount no greater than $25.00 from a retail outlet store in San Marcos, Texas.

Your decision to participate or not to participate will not affect your present or future relationship with the Texas State University – San Marcos. Additionally, you may withdraw from the study at any time without prejudice or jeopardy to your standing with the university or any other Texas State affiliated organization with which you are associated.

Several weeks after the study, you will receive an email with a few follow-up questions about your experience of the focus group and about any insights that may occur in the following days.

Sample follow-up questions for focus group members:

- What emotions did you feel during the focus group?

- What insights, if any, did you have following the focus group

discussion?

Upon completion of the study, you may request that a summary of the findings be provided to you.  You may make this request by sending an email to [msa@txstate.edu](https://synergy.txstate.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=fab68a05ccde49a890761f5d2197a0b0&URL=mailto%3amsa%40txstate.edu). You will also be given a copy of this consent form for your records.

If you have any question about the study, now or later, feel free to ask any of the researchers at the numbers listed above. If you have any questions or concerns about your treatment as a research participant in this study and or your rights as a participant, you may contact the IRB chair, Dr. Jon Lasser (512-245-3413 – [lasser@txstate.edu](https://synergy.txstate.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=fab68a05ccde49a890761f5d2197a0b0&URL=mailto%3alasser%40txstate.edu)) or Ms. Becky Northcut, Compliance Specialist (512-245-2102).

You are making a decision now about whether or not to participate in the study. Your signature below indicates that you have read the information provided and have decided to participate.  If you decide later that you want to withdraw your participation, you may do so. You also may be asked to leave the study if your participation infringes upon the rights and/or well being of other participants.  Thank you.

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Printed Name of Participant

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Signature of Participant      Date

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Signature of Investigator        Date